

In the Claims:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (currently amended) An application server that retrieves data from a database using a retrieval request, which includes a retrieval condition, received from a terminal and transmits the data retrieved as a retrieval result to the terminal, comprising:

a cache memory that stores in a correlated form the retrieval condition and the retrieval result;

an update condition setting unit that sets a cache update condition based on a database update condition that indicates when the cache memory is to be updated, wherein the database update condition includes a number of data records updated in the database within a predetermined period; and

an update processing unit that reads the retrieval condition from the cache memory upon fulfillment of the cache update condition, retrieves data as the retrieval result from the database using the retrieval condition, and updates the retrieval result in the cache memory corresponding to the retrieval condition, wherein

the update condition setting unit sets the cache update condition by acquiring data updated within a predetermined period from the database, and determining whether the number of data ~~records~~records is in a fixed range, and if the number of data records updated is not in the fixed range, the update condition setting unit sets the cache update condition such that the number of data records updated fall in the fixed range.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The application server according to claim 1, wherein, when searching the database, the update processing unit acquires a database update condition that indicates when the database is updated and the update condition setting unit sets the cache update

condition based on the database update condition acquired.

4. (original) The application server according to claim 1, wherein a user sets the cache update condition.

5. (original) The application server according to claim 1, wherein the update processing unit sets next and subsequent cache update conditions using a date and a time of the retrieval result updated.

6-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) An application server system comprising:
a plurality of application servers, each of which retrieves data from a database using a retrieval request, which includes a retrieval condition, received from a terminal and transmits the data retrieved as a retrieval result to the terminal, each application server including
a cache memory that stores in a correlated form the retrieval condition and the retrieval result;
an update condition setting unit that sets a cache update condition based on a database update condition that indicates when the cache memory is to be updated, wherein the database update condition includes a number of data records updated in the database within a predetermined period; and
an update processing unit that reads the retrieval condition from the cache memory upon fulfillment of the cache update condition, retrieves data as the retrieval result from the database using the retrieval condition, and updates the retrieval result in the cache memory corresponding to the retrieval condition, wherein
the update condition setting unit sets the cache update condition by acquiring data updated within a predetermined period from the database, and determining whether the number of data ~~record~~records is in a fixed range, and if the number of data records updated is not in the fixed range, the update condition setting unit sets the cache update condition such that the number of data records updated fall in the fixed range.

12. (original) The application server system according to claim 11, wherein the cache update condition of each application server differs from the cache update condition of any other

application server.

13. (original) The application server system according to claim 11, wherein the cache update condition of all the application servers is identical.

14. (currently amended) A cache update method comprising:
storing a retrieval request received from a terminal that includes a retrieval condition and a retrieval result retrieved using the retrieval request in a correlated form in a cache memory;
reading the retrieval result from the cache memory when a retrieval request is identical to the stored retrieval request;
setting a cache update condition based on a database update condition that indicates when the cache memory is to be updated;
reading the retrieval condition from the cache memory upon fulfillment of the cache update condition;
retrieving data as the retrieval result from the database using the retrieval condition;
and
updating the retrieval result in the cache memory corresponding to the retrieval condition, wherein
the setting includes setting the cache update condition by acquiring data updated within a predetermined period from the database, and determining whether a number of data ~~record~~records updated within the predetermined period is in a fixed range, and if the number of data records updated is not in the fixed range, the setting includes setting the cache update condition such that the number of data records updated fall in the fixed range.